

## *“The Birth of the Church in the Story of God”*

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Read John 13-16; Luke 24; Acts 1, 2

In my quest to preach Christ crucified, it is possible for me to leave you with a diminished view of the Holy Spirit. Each of the three persons of the Trinity is to be equally worshipped and adored. Our desire over the next several weeks is to pick up the storyline of God as it moves from the Hero's arrival, to His work, and finally the legacy He left. God the Father wrote the story and weaved into it promise and picture; the Son fulfilled the promise both in His arrival and His work; now the ministry of the Holy Spirit is proclaiming and applying the gospel in the building of His body, the church. This is the key idea behind Pentecost.

What God promised, He has fulfilled. You and I are the living fulfillment of the promises noted in the Upper Room Discourse and Acts 2. Pentecost is a period of time rightfully noted as a transition. It is a transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. Jesus Christ cut the New Covenant by His life and death. The Holy Spirit is a part of the New Covenant's content.

The promise fulfilled guarantees the building of His church by the preaching of Jesus, the converting of sinners, the gathering of His people for worship and the scattering of the same for evangelism.

“The coming of the Holy Spirit is the gift inaugurating the final stage of the salvation story (or history, chronology); this era leads up to the end of time. His arrival is in fulfillment of Christ's promise, recorded in 1:8.”<sup>1</sup>

“This simple gathering in Jerusalem fifty days after the crucifixion of Jesus is a defining moment for believers and for the gospel. Pentecost is the birthday of the church. Until this moment in history, the faith, known as “the Way,” is **an assemblage of eleven refugees from Galilee**. Their transformation and the transformation of the world are initiated by the great event spoken of in today's lectionary scripture. **This is a monumental, paradigm-changing event**. From this event, we make the bold assertion: The Christian Church cannot and would not exist without the power and the presence of the Holy Ghost.”<sup>2</sup>

In the storyline of God, the Holy Spirit is the next person to move the story forward. What the Father initiated, the Son secured and the Holy Spirit completes. The Spirit of God takes the person and work of Jesus Christ and applies this to the people of God.

This is the story of God's triumph. He has won, and His story continues to unfold. Your life is a part of this one story. No matter how bruised and “lost” you might be at this moment, take heart and know that God's story in you and is being lived out through you. You are His story.

*Continued on the other side...*

You and I are to pray that God would open our eyes and ears to see and hear where the story is being lived out and how we can embrace it fully.

As a local church we must understand the story and how we fulfill our role in the story.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/archive/apentm.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/PopupLectionaryReading.asp?LRID=88> [Emphasis added]

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in the Storyline of the Bible. She is determined by design to have a God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching focused on personal discipleship through intentional and systematic instruction; a Global-impacting mission that resolves to be a church planting church; and a Grace-based fellowship where disciples are invited to live under a reigning grace characterized by a Gospel-driven sanctification that celebrates a divine monergism to the Christian life.